

means for releasing from said vehicle bodywork when said air bag is inflated such that said air bag inflates without tearing said body or said flap of flexible material, said fixing means being secured to said second layer, said fixing means comprising a first strip of hook-and-loop material and a second strip of hook-and-loop material complementary to one another and detachably engaged with one another, one of said first and second strips being secured to said body, the other of said first and second strips being secured directly onto said vehicle bodywork.

18. The assembly of Claim 17, said body having an embellishment sheet extending over a surface of said first layer opposite said second layer.

19. The assembly of Claim 17, said fixing means being affixed adjacent said second edge of said body.

20. An air bag assembly for a vehicle comprising:

- an air bag which is capable of being inflated;
- a bodywork having a housing, said housing receiving said air bag therein; and
- a cover means affixed to said bodywork and covering said air bag, said cover means comprising a body having a flap of flexible material integrally formed with and extending from one edge of said body, said flap of flexible material permanently secured to said bodywork, said body having an opposite edge detachably secured to said bodywork, said body further comprising complementary strips of hook-and-loop material engaged together, one of said complementary strips being affixed to said body, the other of said complementary strips secured directly to said bodywork, said cover means for releasing from said housing when said air bag is inflated so as to release the inflated air bag from said housing without tearing either said body or said flap of flexible material.

21. The air bag assembly of Claim 20, said bodywork comprising a projection extending

outwardly of said housing, said projection having one end affixed to said bodywork and another end adjacent said opposite edge of said body.

22. The air bag assembly of Claim 29, said body having a rounded portion at said opposite end, said rounded portion releasably received within a groove formed on said bodywork.

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REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendments, original Claims 11 - 16 have been cancelled and new Claims 17 - 22 substituted therefor. Reconsideration of the rejections, in light of the foregoing amendments and present remarks, is respectfully requested. The present amendments have further been entered for the purpose of distinguishing the present invention from the prior art.

In the Official Action, it was indicated that Claims 11 - 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over the Steimke patent in view of the Hagen patent and further in view of the Ward patent.

As an overview to the present reply, Applicant has amended the original Claims 11 - 16 in the form of new Claims 17 - 22. Independent Claims 17 and 20 reflect the language of original Claims 11 and 14. Each of these independent claims includes the new limitation that the flap of flexible material is "integrally formed with and extending from said first edge of said body". This configuration can be created during the formation of the body of the present invention by compressing one of the edges of the cover. This disclosure is supported in the original text on page 16, lines 8 - 12 and in original Claim 7. Dependent Claims 18 and 19 correspond to original Claims 12 and 13. Dependent Claims 21 and 22 correspond to original Claims 15 and 16.

Relative to the prior art rejection, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position in this regard. Applicant repeats its arguments contained in its previously filed Amendment